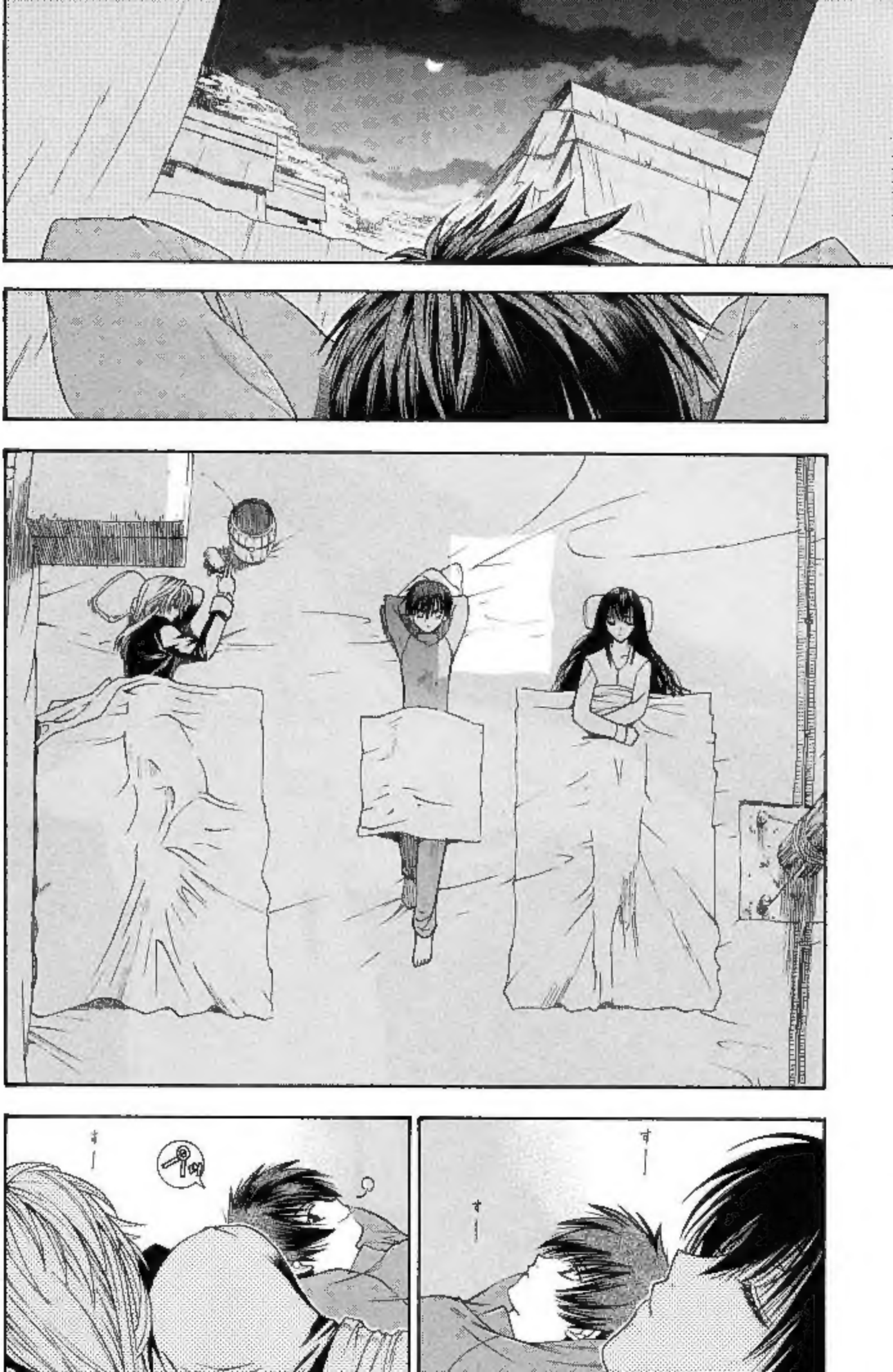
第18話　唯一の人

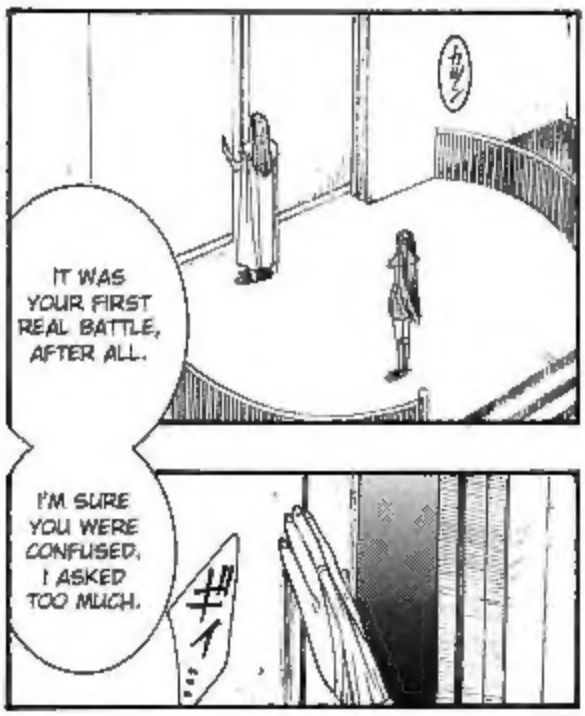
CHAPTER 18: THE ONLY ONE



"RESTRAINED LAUGHTER"
EVEN THOUGH I SAID YOU WERE DRINKING TOO MUCH BOOZE, YOU ENDED UP FALLING ASLEEP, ALESS!
AND YOU WERE *THAT* OPPOSED TO STAYING IN MY TENT!

I THINK THAT LAST BATTLE COULDN'T BE HELPED.

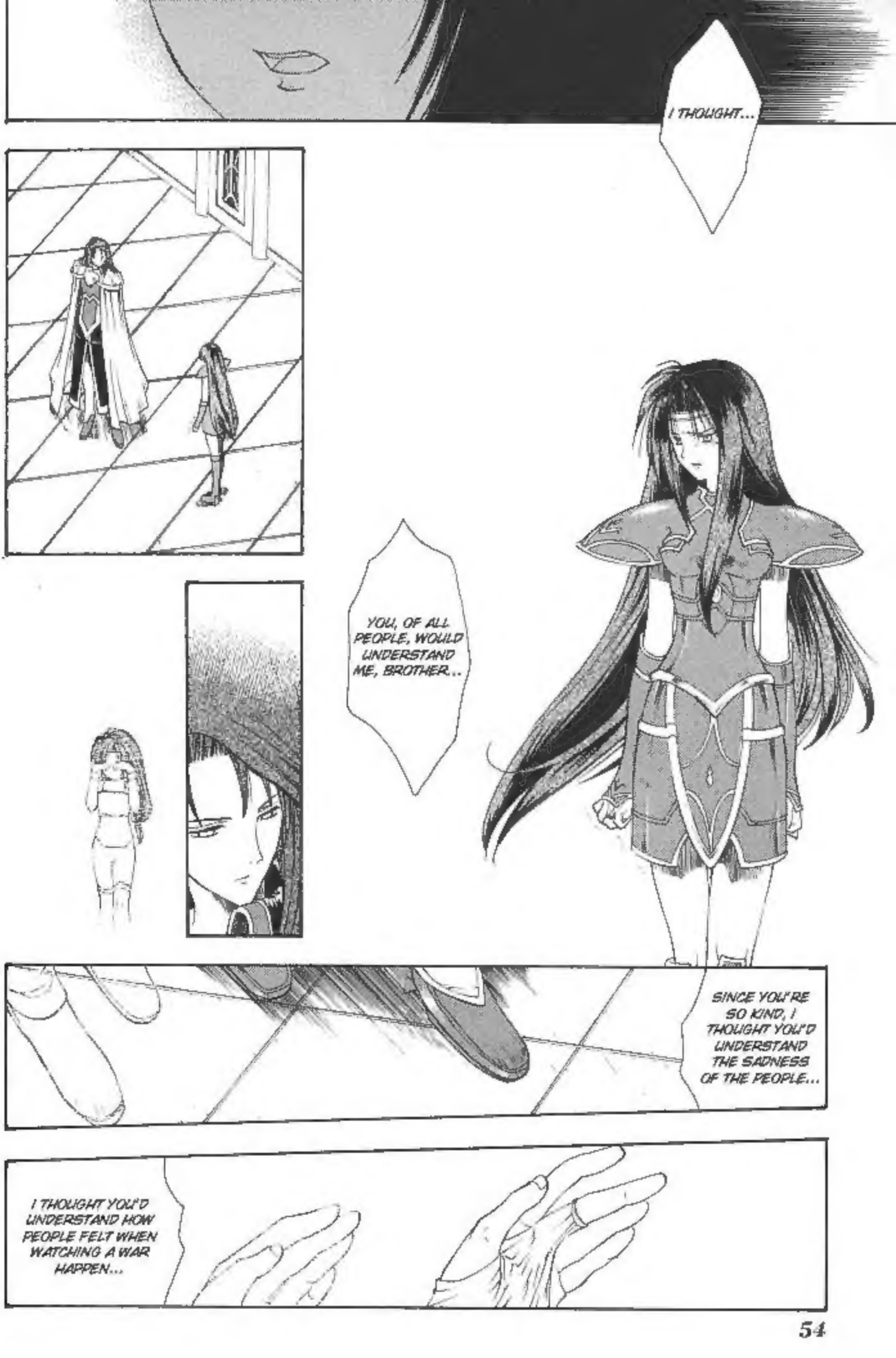
HOWEVER, MORE THAN ANYTHING, I AM GLAD YOU'RE SAFE...


IT WAS YOUR FIRST REAL BATTLE, AFTER ALL.
I'M SURE YOU WERE CONFUSED. I ASKED TOO MUCH.

カツン
MANSTER'S CONQUEST HAS FAILED, BUT...
YOU MUST ORGANIZE YOUR FEELINGS BEFORE THE NEXT BATTLE...
!?
カツン
BROTHER! ARE YOU STILL PLANNING TO CONTINUE THIS WAR?!

I DIDN'T COME BACK HERE TO REPORT ON THE DEFEAT IN MANSTER!
I CAME BACK TO PERSUADE YOU TO STOP THIS POINTLESS WAR!
ALTHENA, DON'T DISAPPOINT ME... I MEAN, FATHER.
CAN YOU REALLY SAY OUR PEOPLE WILL BE HAPPY IF WE OBTAIN ABUNDANCE AT THE COST OF OPPRESSING OTHER COUNTRIES?!
WHY WON'T YOU UNDER-STAND, BROTHER!
THAT'S WRONG!

WE'LL MAKE THEM HAPPY... OUR PEOPLE... OUR COUNTRY... DEFINITELY...!
NO DOUBT, THE ABUNDANCE IS THE GREATEST WISH OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS POOR COUNTRY.
AND FATHER THINKS THE SAME.
FATHER THIS, FATHER THAT... YOU RESPECT FATHER'S WILL WAY TOO MUCH, BROTHER!
ALTHENA! I WON'T ALLOW ANY INSULTS TOWARDS FATHER!
EVEN WHEN HE'S WRONG, YOU ALWAYS...!

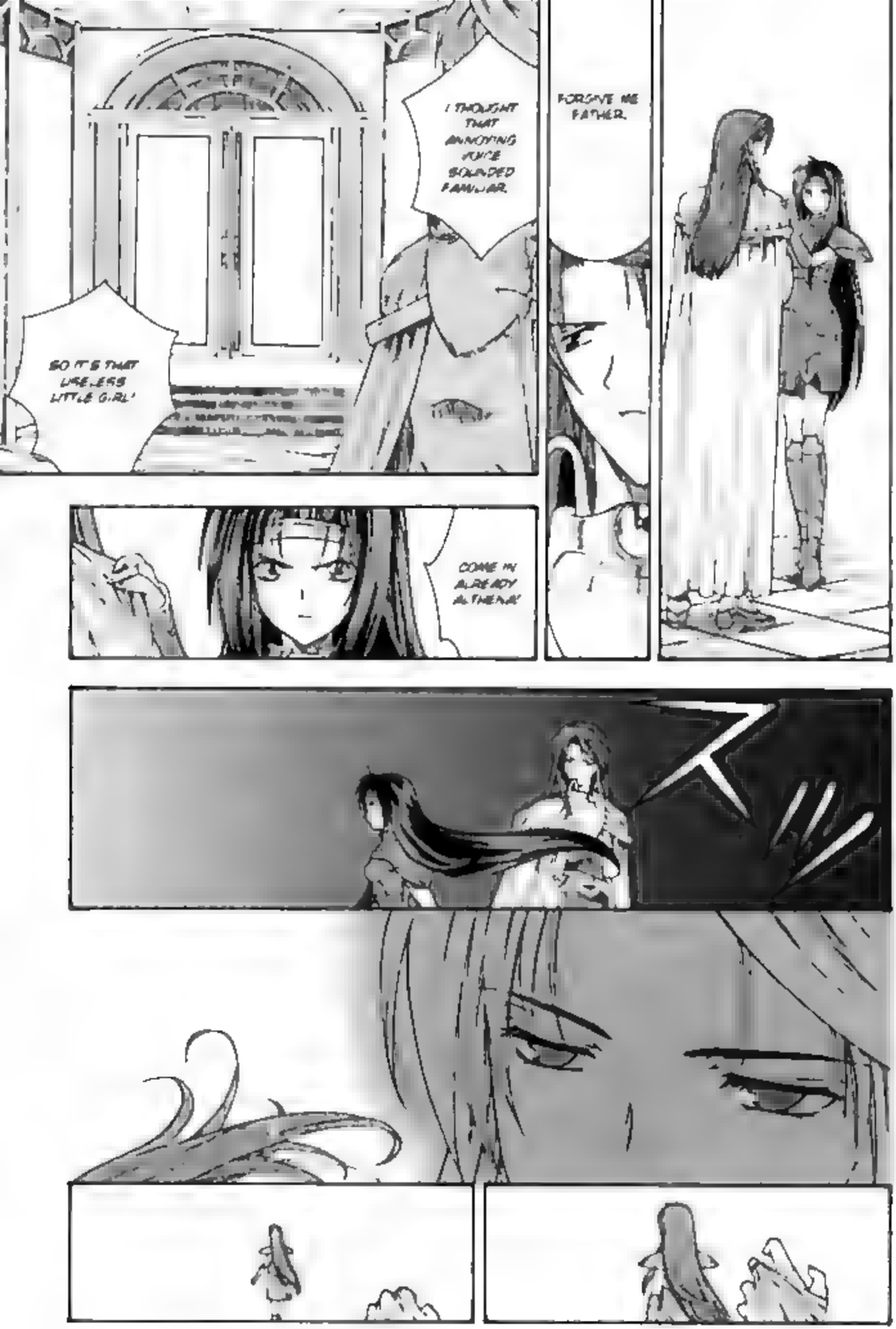

I THOUGHT...
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, WOULD UNDERSTAND ME, BROTHER...
SINCE YOU'RE SO KIND, I THOUGHT YOU'D UNDERSTAND THE SADNESS OF THE PEOPLE...
I THOUGHT YOU'D UNDERSTAND HOW PEOPLE FELT WHEN WATCHING A WAR HAPPEN...

BROTHER, FATHER HATES ME.
EVERYONE HATES ME... EVERYONE... EVERYONE...!
NO, NO! FATHER IS STRICT WITH YOU BECAUSE HE CARES ABOUT YOU.
BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE HE BEATS, AND THE OFFICIALS LOOK AT ME COLDLY, TOO...

I KNOW MANY LIVES WILL BE LOST IN THIS WAR.
HOWEVER, IF THINGS STAY LIKE THIS, EVEN MORE LIVES WILL BE RUINED IN THIS LAND.
IT'S TIME FOR BATTLE.
IT'S NO USE... BROTHER...
THIS TIME... IS DIFFERENT...
I CAN'T SAY ANY WORDS OF COMFORT OR UNDERSTANDING.
THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, ALTHENA.
CAN'T CHANGE MY WI...
WHY AM REMEMBERING THAT? IT'S A LIE
THE SAME TRABANT WHIC K'LLED OUR PARENTS
NO IT'S A LIE
NO F THINGS STAY _IKE THIS.

BROTHER, PLEASE UNDERSTAND ME!
I BEG OF YOU, BROTHER!
YOU'RE TOO NOISY!
PLEASE COME WITH ME TO PERSUADE FATHER!
SO HE'LL STOP THE WAR AND RELEASE THAT HOSTAGE!

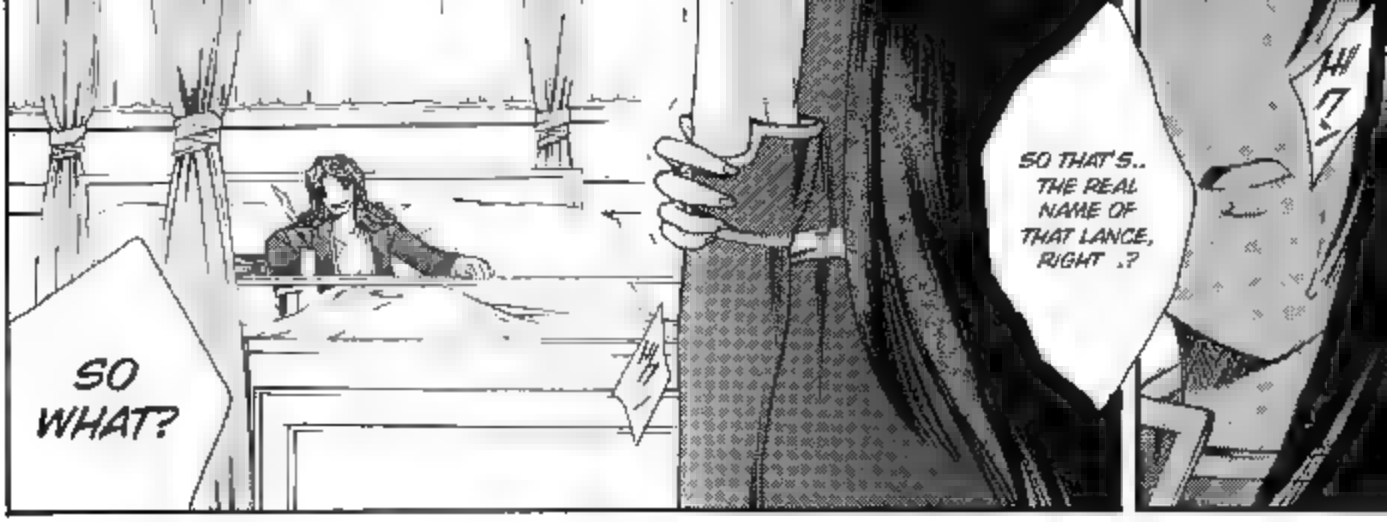

SO IT'S THAT USELESS LITTLE GIRL!
I THOUGHT THAT ANNOYING VOICE SOUNDED FAMILIAR.
FORGIVE ME FATHER.
COME IN ALREADY ATHENA!

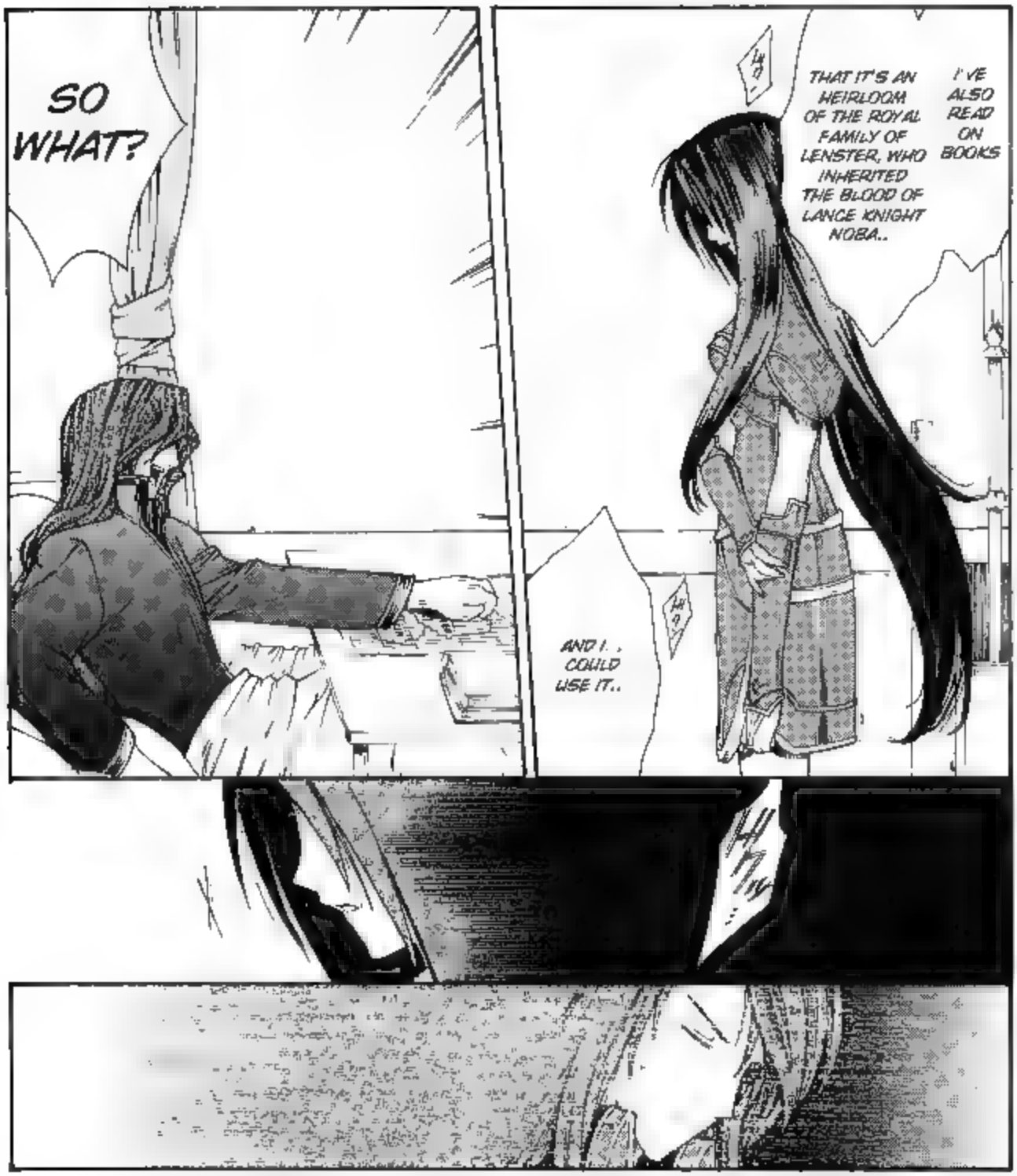
EXCUSE ME!
THAT'S QUITE A MIGHTY ENTRANCE... FOR A LOSER WHO CAME BACK IN DISGRACE AFTER BEING DEFEATED IN BATTLE!

HE KILLED OUR PARENTS...
NO, I'LL HAVE YOU LISTEN!
YOU MUST STOP THIS WAR! MAKE A TRUCE WITH THE LIBERATION ARMY AND RELEASE THE HOSTAGE...
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU, FATHER!
I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN!
AH, BROTHER... PLEASE STAY OUT OF THIS.
FATHER WON'T CHANGE HIS MIND. GIVE UP, ALTHENA.
!?

HEY YOU.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LANCE?
IT'S ONLY A LANCE. IT DOESN'T
WHAT HAPPEN-ED TO YOUR LANCE?!
I'M SURE I TOLD YOU THAT WAS AN EXPENSIVE LANCE WHEN I GAVE IT TO YOU!
WHY DID YOU ENTER EMPTY-HANDED?

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT
THE "GAE BOLG?"
.. HEH
WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT NAME?


SO WHAT?
SO THAT'S.. THE REAL NAME OF THAT LANCE, RIGHT .?
HM?


SO WHAT?
HM?
THAT IT'S AN HEIRLOOM OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF LENSTER, WHO INHERITED THE BLOOD OF LANCE KNIGHT NOBA..
I'VE ALSO READ ON BOOKS
HM?
AND I., COULD USE IT..
HM?

17 YEARS AGO.
I WAS TAKEN AWAY, TOGETHER WITH THAT LANCE.
AND MY PARENTS WERE KILLED.
BY YOU.

SO WHAT?
I WAS THE ONE WHO RAISED YOU! YOU SHOULD ACTUALLY BE THANKFUL!
TRABANT!

I'LL KILL YOU!

HE WOULD ALWAYS PUT FATHER AHEAD OF ANYTHING...
BROTHER HAS ALWAYS LOVED AND RESPECTED
I KNEW
IF YOU'RE GOING TO OPPOSE FATHER, THEN I'LL BE YOUR OPPONENT
IF WERE TO REGARD FATHER AS AN ENEMY THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
TAG
NO.
NO.
THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T HATE ME

WAS MY BROTHER
NO.
DON'T HATE YOU.
NO...!
YOU'RE MY PRECIOUS LITTLE SISTER SO.
IT'S TOO LATE NOW!
DIE, ALTHENA!

I HATE YOU, BROTHER!!
SO. DON'T CRY
HE WAS MY ONLY
SUPPORT, AND YET..!

DID SHE DIE?
WHAT A WASTE.

DON'T CRY...
ATHENA..

WE CAN'T SEE ANY ENEMIES AROUND THE FORTRESS.
DO THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF COMING OUT...?
THERE IT IS.
YEAH.
THERE'S THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AMBUSH, NO?
DID YOU SLEEP WELL IN MY TENT, ALESS...?
ER... LORD CELICE...

I BEG OF YOU! I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO GET IN YOUR WAY DURING BATTLE!
I KNOW IT'S A BOTHER, BUT... I WONDER IF I COULD STAY BY YOUR SIDE?
NO, JULIA. IT'S DANGER-OUS!
JULIA, WHY...
SOMETHING...
REALLY PAINFUL...
... I DON'T KNOW.
JULIA...?

IS GOING...
TO HAPPEN IN THIS BATTLE...
THAT'S HOW IT FEELS LIKE...